

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

LONG PACKET HANDLING

A switch for switching packets from a plurality of sources. The switch includes a memory in which portions of packets are stored. The switch includes a transferring mechanism which transfers predetermined portions of a packet to the memory as the predetermined portions are received. A method for switching packets. The method includes the steps of receiving portions of a packet at a transferring mechanism of a switch. Then there is the step of transferring predetermined portions of the packet to a memory of the switch as the predetermined portions are received at the transferring mechanism.